

From the Editor

AT press time, preparations were continuing for possible war with Iraq. In this issue, Heike Hasenauer covers those preparations in "Update, Preparing for War."

One of the brightest stars of the last Gulf War was Army aviation, and this month the aviation branch celebrates its 20th birthday. In "Army Aviation: Flying High at 20," SPC William Petersen chronicles the branch's storied history.

When it comes to history, perhaps no single act had as much impact on the future of the United States as the Louisiana Purchase. Over the next two years, our nation will celebrate the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's exploration of those lands. In "Lewis and Clark and the U.S. Army Corps of Discovery," Gil High provides a quick look at key events leading up to the expedition. Watch for special Lewis and Clark coverage and inserts in upcoming issues.

Finally, frequent contributor MSG Bob Haskell shows us how National Guard soldiers from five states joined in the search for remains and debris following the Feb. 1 breakup of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

John C. Suttle

Not Tim

THE picture on page 11 of the February issue is of me, but the caption is wrong. My name is LTC Tom (not Tim) O'Hara. I also am not commander of the 405th Civil Affairs Battalion. I am deputy commander of the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I was in Afghanistan supporting the 20th Engineer Brigade out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

LTC Thomas E. O'Hara Jr.
via e-mail

Thanks for the correction to the caption, which was provided to us by the photographer.

Turkey Tablets

I ENJOYED the February article "Living in Turkey" by MAJ William Beckman, but noticed a minor error.

In the box on page 16 the author stated that: "Writing was first used by people in ancient Anatolia. The first clay tablets — in the ruins of Assyrian Karum — date back to 1950 B.C."

Actually, the oldest known writing, also on clay tablets, was found in 1974 at Tell Mardikh, Syria, and dated to 2400-2500 B.C.

Hermann Albers
via e-mail

THE February article on Turkey was in error about that country being the site of the oldest known writing.

The earliest known writing was Sumerian cuneiform in the Mesopotamian Valley (modern Iraq) at approximately 3500 BC, with Egyptian hieroglyphics a close second. Both are significantly earlier than the article's statement of 1950 BC

Hot Topics Huzzahs

CONGRATULATIONS on your February Hot Topics issue on family violence. This is a significant issue, and it is important to involve our leaders in its solution. I'm particularly pleased to see Hot Topics address this sensitive, but sometimes hidden, topic. Keep up the good work.

LTG Lawrence F. Skibbie (Ret.)
via e-mail

I APPLAUD your February Hot Topics insert on domestic violence. I also find it troubling.

While it was correct in stating that women and children suffer most, it failed to mention that men are battered 800,000 times a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. How many go unreported? Your illustrations were touching, but none depicted a man holding off a woman attempting to get at him, or throwing things through the home or getting in his face.

I can't help but think that a man in an abusive situation, who already feels embarrassed about it, will only think twice after reading your insert before reporting it. He'll wonder who'll believe him, or he'll eventually react to the woman's abusive behavior and then himself be seen as the abuser.

Men, you, too, need to report abuse the first time. It happens, and you are not alone.

SGT Chad Kennedy
Troy, Ohio

YOUR February Hot Topics contains valuable information about domestic violence that will benefit our families and leaders.

However, the insert was clearly lacking emphasis on the leader's role in punishing offenders. As much as we want to help families, we cannot ignore that most domestic violence incidents are crimes. Domestic violence should not be treated as a purely clinical problem. We must hold offenders accountable for their actions.

LTC Susan C. Daniels
Via e-mail



for the clay tablets from Anatolia.

SSG Jim Monroe
Fort Bragg, N.C.

Ciao, Camp Smith

IN your February Feedback a reader asked about the loca-

tion of Camp Smith.

I believe my father-in-law was stationed at Camp Smith, near Nevada, Mo., in the early 1940s. He was a military policeman, and for the rest of his life he was a great Italian cook — a skill he had learned while guarding the Italian

POWs held at Camp Smith.
Ansley M. Starr
via e-mail

Poster Praise

I AM the Netherlands liaison officer at Fort Leavenworth, and I, like a lot of other people, enjoy your posters very much. I personally think that your posters are an excellent way to reach not only existing Army members — both on active duty and in the reserve component — but also potential new soldiers.

Lt. Col. Andre R. Buimer
Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

THIS is the first time I have ever felt compelled to write to any service or service-related magazine. I just wanted to say I believe that I must be one of the “old Army” soldiers, based on my beliefs and unwillingness to change.

I really did not like or enjoy the black beret when it got here, and I really thought the “Army of One” slogan was out of touch. However, you and your readers have helped me to overcome some of these “afflictions.” I am trying to open my mind to our “new” soldiers in the “new” Army.

The one plus of all the latest events is the terrific new line of posters you have out. The new “Army of One” slogan takes on a new light with the innovative art of the poster. I say “well done” to the designers and editors involved with them.

Ssg Jack Chase
Fort Campbell, Ky.

Great Rats

IN December's issue, Heike Hasenauer wrote about how greatly Army rations have improved. I can second that.

I was a sergeant in the field artillery in Vietnam in the late 1960s, and we ate almost nothing except C rations. They were barely edible.

All I can say is that soldiers should be thankful for the quality and diversity of today's military rations.

Paul J. Constantino
Burlingame, Calif.

Soul and Body

IT was with great joy and interest that I read my first issue of *Soldiers* — the December 2002 edition.

As the daughter of a Navy pilot and chaplain, I know what ministering to members of the U.S. military means — offering food for hungry hearts and

souls. We grew up learning respect and appreciation for people of all races and creeds, which your article, “Serving God and Country” so accurately portrayed.

The very next article, “Kitchen Artistry,” struck a professional chord. As a nutritionist at California State University at Fullerton, I have shared nutrition and health insights with the top-rated Titan Army ROTC cadets. Feeding our soldiers nutritionally dense foods is imperative, for we truly are what we eat. If the food looks and tastes excellent, all the better!

Kudos to the Army chefs and journalists!

Ada C. Schulz
via e-mail

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.



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